



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



WESTBEX EDITION APRIL 2013

Chairman's Report

Yet again a most successful Westbex Stamp and Postcard fair. In spite of the atrocious snowy weather all but one dealer arrived and as the day progressed the attendance improved greatly with most of the dealers quite satisfied with the day. There were also a few that could not be fitted in so perhaps our Westbex reputation has spread far and wide.

Our thanks must go to quite a few club members for their efforts in making this event such a success. Westbex could not take place without them.

Firstly to all the club members who helped with the setting up on the Friday evening and Saturday morning and helped to clear away after it was all over.

The Westbex committee of Will Roberts – overseer, Graeme Stewart – bookings and dealers and Martin Farr publicity and programme.

Ann Martin who organised all of the raffle and found another raffle drum for us when the usual one we use went missing.

And finally to the 'front of house' team of Ann, Juliet, Ian and Graeme that 'manned' the front desk for the programmes and raffle tickets and to Ian and Juliet who looked after the NPS room and their members. Thanks to you all,

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 47

Issue 120

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For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

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The Westbex 'Front-of-House' team

SPRING Photo Gallery



An 1806 advert for Hornsby and Company



John Baron presents



A Rebus advert for lottery agent J&J Sivewright & Co.



Malcolm Hoskins with his Machin display



A Phabulous Phonograph on Musical Monday



Tony Jordan's great full-size new-issue sheets



The scene at 9am!



A view of the proceedings



The Thames Valley 9-sheet competition entries

PAST EVENTS

January Meetings.

The theme for Monday 7th was `World Leaders or 10 Famous People`. There were 18 members present on quite a chilly afternoon.

Tony Jordan started off with cigarette cards of famous men and a page of Walt Disney characters and presidents of the USA from 1776-1926 on nine stamps.

John Taylor then showed 7 sets of issues of `Heroes of Peace` which included authors, poets, scientists, composers, artists, inventors and educators.

Ian Keel showed items of Queen Elizabeth II, President Eisenhower, Stalin, Baden Powell, Queen Julianna, Churchill and de Gaul.

David Beddoes brought some stamp covers of issues of 12 famous people including Churchill, Scott, Cooke, Pope John Paul and Dr Elizabeth from New Zealand.

John Shambrook brought covers of Columbus, Cooke, Santos Dunant and Cody the early fliers, Shakespeare and Cecil Rhodes.

Martin Farr showed illustrated sheets on Newton, Brunel, Faraday, Mendeleev and Humboldt.

We then had a mini auction of 16 lots of which 8 were sold.

On Thursday January 17th were entertained by our President **John Baron** with his evening entitled `From then `till now`. and what a good evening it was with 22 members present.

His `journey` started in 1999 when he won his first ever competition with just 3 sheets. He then latched on to banking as a main theme to include the Stock Exchange and Insurance. John showed lots of early private banking sheets and covers both national and local – a lottery collection with a 1775 ticket, - Tattersall's correspondence and lottery tickets for racing.

In July 2011 he started to re-write all of his lottery sheets to tell their story and showed a set of 16 sheets that won an Vermeille award at Stampex in 2012 and a revised version won gold at national federation level.

For part 2 John showed early covers and letters from the Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale banks. Then some early letters both to and from the Bank of England and the Savings Bank. Also shown were several 7-sheet design sequences on the `Centenary of Banking` issues of the Seychelles and a 5-sheet sequence of Swaziland. Both designs were by Tony Theobalds. Finally John showed some City of Glasgow Bank items from 1839 and two letters signed by the chief cashier of the Bank of England from 1804 and 1814. And to finish off a letter from RBS showing the only known perforation trial of the 1d red of 1866! A very enjoyable and interesting evenings talk which was followed by a mini auction of 15 lots of which 8 were sold.

February Meetings.

On Monday 4th the theme was `Music and Musical Instruments` and 25 members were present.

Eric Osmond showed sheets of Elvis Presley, Pink Floyd, some musical items and Band leaders.

Mike Gurr showed a Fire Engine jazz band and a 1925 Programme of Music at Windsor Castle for George V and Queen Mary. Very nice.

Mike Smith displayed a sheet of stamps showing African musical instruments.

And to close the first half **Martin Farr** showed some sheets on Recorded Sound and then produced a Phabulous Phonograph – an Edison Bell cylinder model from 1905 – and then played some cylinders.

For the second half **John Taylor** showed two MS sheets of the Opera House of Vienna – 100 years old in 1969 - and then stamps showing six of the operas.

Ian Keel put up six sheets of stamps of composers, instruments, singers and cards of Gilbert and Sullivan

Tony Jordan showed a sheet of very strange musical instruments.

Dave Tanner showed two sheets of music and musical instruments from Thailand and Laotian drums. Then, to finish off, **Bob Paterson** showed a sheet of postmarks and postcards from Bugle in Cornwall.

The mini-auction sold 10 items out of 15 on offer – not bad.

Finally as it was **Ann's** birthday she was given some flowers and as a thank you for doing the teas.

On Wednesday 13th I gave a talk to the Shaw cum Donnington W.I. on Chinese Myths and Legends which was very well received and the tea and cake was nice too! What impressed me was that at other W.I. talks I have given the proceedings just started whereas at this meeting we all stood up and sang Jerusalem which was rather nice.

The theme for the evening meeting on Thursday 21st was `New Acquisitions` and there were 22 members. To start of off the evening **Malcolm Hoskins** filled a display board with his Machin label issues which showed security codes, year codes and colours, shades and types and styles of stamps. Most of us were quite amazed at just how much was involved with machines and there were many questions answered.

John Findlater showed us a large folder of sheets about the history of the 1d blacks. The data included paper types, lettering, colours and dyes and perforations followed by the same information for the 1d red issues. Quite a collection of material and very interesting.

Bob Paterson has started a new theme of Commonwealth sets and postcards of Cornwall villages with postmarks where possible. He then showed some postcards of aircraft and tugs in Cornwall.

Martin Farr showed some legends material from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Russia with a large MS of the Rhubaiyat of Omar Khayyam which have yet to be written up.

Mike Gurr ended the first half by saying that he has reduced his `bird collecting` to certain species only and has started to concentrate on the Isle of Man and showed a full set from 1973-77.

Before we had tea there was a mini-auction when 15 lots were sold from 30 items on offer

To start the second half **Jerry Wilson** showed the complete pictorial sets of South Africa 2010 – Taxi hand signs (very interesting!), sports stadia, 2010 world cup, fisher folk, birds and trains. A nice sequence.

Tony Jordan showed material including stamps, covers and cigarette cards, to illustrate the 1776 war of independence and showed the uniforms of the Welsh Fusiliers who served with the Red Coats in America.

Graeme Stewart showed postal history cards and letters of Newbury and Thatcham with cancellations and postmarks plus two booklets of the Postbox Society of which he is a member.

Dave Tanner showed us some very interesting material. Two complete travel permits for a Belgian person who worked for the post office in Iran. They had all the cancellations and stamps on many sheets showing just where he travelled to in Iran.

This brought the meeting to a close with thanks to **Colin** and **Wilf** for doing the teas in Ann`s absence.

March Meetings

The theme for Monday 4th was `Eastern Delights` and 22 members attended with 7 showing some material. To start off **Tony Jordan** showed some delightful flowers from around the world including the Maldives and East Germany.

John Taylor showed several sheets of Chinese pictorial sets and ancient bronzes.

David Beddoes showed recent issues of Hong Kong including mini sheets of various events in the past.

Ian Keel gave us some Eastern Ephemera from the Singapore Stamp Museum they visited and some books of stamps that they bought in Beijing plus a nice Egyptian 4-sheet booklet.

Phil Fisher put up some Chinese zodiac stamps from 1980-2011 (this year is the year of the snake) and then some sets from the `Outlaws of the Marsh` and `Three Kingdoms` issues and some very nice selected art works on stamps.

Finally **Martin Farr** showed sets of stamps from the Japanese Philatelic Week issues from when they started in 1948/9 up until 1998/9 when the first pair were re-issued in miniature format. All rather nice with lots of geishas and Japanese art styles.

The afternoon finished off with the usual mini-auction where 6 lots out of 12 were sold.

The Thursday meeting on the 21st was `5 sheets or 50p` (although up to 10+ could be shown) and there were 26 members present for the evening – a good turnout.

To start off the evening **Malcolm Hoskins** showed part 2 of his Machin label collection which included `horizon` machin labels both perf and straight cut, originally white then to gold, plus air mails 1st and 2nd class. A wealth of information that very few of us knew about.

Juliet Keel showed some more postcards of `women of class` which is her new collection theme. They included washing days, lace knitters, early office workers, Edwardian jollity and days out. Nice sets.

Jerry Wilson put up some nicely presented sheets of Unesco World Heritage sites which included Egypt, Nepal, Senegal, Laos and St Petersburg.

Tony Jordan showed us a frame of first day of issue sheets which showed large pictures of the stamp concerned. They included heraldry, sport, fairs, Arthurian legends and a great one showing an escaped lion attacking a stagecoach horse – illustration for the stagecoaches issue. (See picture on page 2).

Dave Tanner showed stamps of Iraq, sets from the occupation of Germany and Laos, US airmails and early Persian issues.

Barney Bardsley showed some sheets to illustrate `Knowledge, Desire and Luck` which were connected with his 1d black collections of plate 11 and how he acquired several examples. Very interesting.

Wilf Sentance showed us some WW1 cards which were sent from the front by soldiers to their loved ones. Very decorative and pretty artistic cards and silks with some poignant messages home.

Then **Tony Hillier** displayed some cards from 1928-9 of Queen Louise Marie of Belgium and some 1990 Belgian roses issues. And to finish off the first half we had a mini-auction where 13 from 22 were sold.

John Tingey started off the second half with 5 philatelic sheets in order of their acquisition and related just how they were obtained – a rare 10/-cobalt blue on blued paper, some 1d blacks, inverted watermarks, some 1d reds and covers and a bargain e-bay purchase with 5 known copies! Now there's luck for you!

John Findlater showed some postcards of naval training sailing ships and liners from around the world.

John Gibbins put up sheets of stamps from the Indian federated states issues of 1874-1898, 1904 and 1887

Martin Farr presented the `Travels of Matsuo Basho` the haiku poet who travelled around Honshu Island in 1698-9 and composed many haiku poems on the way.

Graeme Stewart showed sheets to illustrate `A Birdwalk with Stamps` which illustrated all the birds to be found at the Thatcham lakes and Newbury park areas plus pictures of 2 old post-boxes at Henley and Ben Ainsley's golden box at Lymington which was painted gold to celebrate his gold Olympic medal.

Then finally **Ian Keel** showed some draft sheets of postage dues that he is putting together ready to exhibit.

What a good evening! Fifteen members showing such wide and varied interests. Well done everyone and also those that contributed to club funds.

Westbex 2013

In spite of the awful early-morning weather, virtually all of the dealers turned up eventually and were unloading their stock in the snow which didn't stop until late morning. The visitors to the fair were scant at first but picked up eventually and we issued 96 programmes to visitors not including club members and the Thames Valley members. So not bad really. By the end of the day most of the dealers had had a good day although one said that he had not covered his table fees!

The National Philatelic Society had a meeting at 1.30 pm when several members showed and spoke about their material and answered questions. There were about ten present for this regional meeting.

At 2pm it was time to announce the winners of the Thames Valley Federation Competition 9-sheet winners. The entries had been on display in the foyer for all to view the various classes. Cups and certificates were presented as follows:-

Traditional	1 st	Rex Dixon	Maidenhead			
Postal history	1 st	Mike Kitson	Oxford	2 nd	Alan Cowie	Oxford
	3 rd	Malcolm Gascoyne	Henley	4 th	Tony Simmonds	Maidenhead
	5 th	Graeme Stewart	Thatcham	6 th	Ian Keel	Thatcham
Thematic	1 st	Martin Farr	Thatcham	2 nd	Mike Payne	Oxford
Open	1 st	Stephen Marks	Oxford			
Aerophilately	1 st	Eddie Spicer	Maidenhead			
Cinderella	Joint 1 st	David Potts	Oxford	and	Tony Stanford	Maidenhead
Special study	1 st	Louise Funnell	Thatcham			

THE POSTCARD PAGE



Women and Class on Postcards

by Juliet Keel

Hop-pickers in Kent. Pre World War 1

When looking through my postcard collection recently it struck me what a broad picture they painted. I have chosen just four, all women, to illustrate my point.

The *Hop-pickers* is one of my favourites because of the fine detail. They have probably worked all day, cooked and washed for the family and at last are relaxing by the fire, warming their hands and having a smoke. Special trains would carry thousands of East-Enders down to Kent – some to live in tents, others in shacks. A family affair – parents, children, grandparents and all.

Miss Evie Greene – actress and singer – seems to have made it big time in Edwardian musical comedies with postcards in dozens of different poses, with lovely clothes and hats – but in this picture she has not lost that saucy look that doubtless endeared her to her fans.

Queen Alexandra the top of the tree. As Princess Alexandra of Denmark she married Queen Victoria's eldest son Edward in 1863, had 6 children, adored all her grandchildren and was adored by them in return. With the death of Victoria in 1901 she became Queen Empress, and on her husband's death in 1910, the Queen Mother. The signature high necklaces were apparently to hide a scar on her neck.

The Shell factory workers shows women who for the most part have seen their husbands off to the front and are themselves "doing their bit for Blightie" working amid the dirt and danger of an ordnance factory. My grandmother worked there (one of these ladies just might be her), but had to quit with lung problems.

Four very different pictures each holding so much human life and social history. That's what I like about collecting postcards.

Juliet Keel



Miss Evie Greene 1875-1917



Shell factory at Woolwich Arsenal



Queen Alexandra 1844-1925

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

The National Philatelic Society at nps@ukphilately.org.uk

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

26th March	Classic TV
16 th April	Great Britons
9 th May	Football Heroes
30 th May	QEII Royal portraits
18 th June	Classic locomotives of N. Ireland
11 th July	Butterflies

Sales and Wants

For Sale – A very good condition expensive Lite-On DVD Recorder with internal hard disc drive, full instructions, remote control and a scart lead. A bargain at £25.00. Contact Martin Farr editor.

Westbex Raffle Results

1 st prize	£100	David Batchelor	0061
2 nd prize	Whiskey	Mike Tanner	0724
3 rd prize	Cushions	Sue Rhodes	0617
4 th prize	Electric heater	Pauline Badger	0042
5 th prize	Key ring/light	P. Tarrant	0791
6 th prize	Photo box	John Tingey	0406
7 th prize	Garden book/voucher	John Baxter	0076
8 th prize	Kitchen linen	Will Roberts	0544
9 th prize	£10 Waitrose voucher	Peter Memmot	0007

Many thanks to Ann for organising the raffle for us and also the ticket folders on the day.

The Society Auction in November

This will be held on Thursday 21st November and may seem a long way off but it is not too early to think of assembling your items. The important dates to note are that entries can be accepted from **1st June** and the final date for entries is **14th July**

The vendor's lots listing sheets can be downloaded from the club website and paper copies will be available from the auction committee. The form has a list of requirements on the reverse and basically lots are to be `standard – A4 sheets and stockcards` or `large lots`. Standard lots will be submitted to **Reg Rhodes** and large lots to **Colin Bartholemew**. The lots must be accompanied by a completed lots list. The minimum reserve price will be £1 and there will be a vendors premium of 10% of the hammer price.

We hope that the auction will be a success and this of course relies on members submitting materials that will hopefully be of interest to potential buyers. We do hope that there will be items for you to purchase so do come along and support the auction. We anticipate that the auction catalogue will be available by 7th October And viewing will be at the Stamp Fair on October 12th

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are now being looked after by Dave Tanner who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Packet Circuit

The club has a thriving packet circuit and if you would like to participate or find out more details then please contact Mike Gurr on 01635 43398 or see him at club meetings.

Future Programme and Events

Monday 8th April	`Overprints` theme afternoon
Thursday 18 th April	`Jamaica stamps and Postal History` with Steve Jarvis
Monday 13 th May	`Endangered Species` theme afternoon
Thursday 16 th May	Philatelic Half`s with Martin and Tony
Saturday 1 st June	Ringpex 2013 at Ringwood, Hampshire
Monday 3 rd June	`Air Mails` theme afternoon
Saturday 8 th June	Swinpex at Swindon
27 th - 30 th June	PCGB Congress, Gloucester
Thursday 20 th June	`Scott`s Last Expedition 1910-13` with Trevor Cornford
Monday 1 st July	`The Monday Cup` 3-sheet Competition
Thursday 18 th July	`1936 Berlin Olympics` with Tony Bosworth

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Ann Martin	01488 682728
Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Mike Gurr	01635 43398

Archivist	Julia Wilson	WestBex	Will Roberts	Publicity	Martin Farr
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